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(54) Title: A COMPOSITION COMPRISING A CARRIER AND A PURIFIED MYCOBACTERIAL LIPID CELL-WALL COMPO-NENT AND ITS USE IN THE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE

### (57) Abstract

A composition comprising a purified lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier, medium, excipient or adjuvant is described. The composition is useful in prophylactic and therapeutic methods of treating a microbial infection in a subject, typically a mycobacterial infection such as tuberculosis, and immune disorders, inflammatory conditions and allergies in a subject, typically autoimmune diseases. It is also useful in diagnostic methods. The purified lipid cell-wall component is typically a purified mycolic acid or a mixture of purified mycolic acids from a bacterium which produces mycolic acids. The bacterium is from Mycobacterium, Corynebacterium, Nocardia or Rhodococcus.

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